

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-111. (cancelled)

112. (currently amended) A device for transport of liquid developer to an image carrier element for electrophoretic digital printing, comprising:

a developer unit arranged adjacent to the image carrier element, the developer unit directing a liquid developer comprising toner particles to the image carrier element, the toner particles crossing over to the image carrier element corresponding to previously-generated potential images;

a raster unit arranged adjacent to the developer unit, the raster unit transporting the liquid developer to the developer unit by use of a raster;

an electrical voltage applied between the raster unit and the developer unit in order to exert a targeted field effect on the toner particles in a direction towards the developer unit;

a doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ comprising a dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ arranged adjacent to the raster unit and having said liquid developer comprising said toner particles which are already charged, and from the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ the raster unit accepting the liquid developer via the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~; and

the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ being arranged and operable such that the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ is washed over by said liquid developer.

113. (currently amended) A device according to claim 112 wherein the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ is arranged relative to the raster unit such that the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ is washed over by said liquid developer due to gravity.

114. (currently amended) A device according to claim 112 wherein the liquid developer in the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ is exposed to an over-pressure such that the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ is washed over by said liquid developer.

115. (previously presented) A device according to claim 112 wherein a cleaning device is arranged adjacent to the developer unit for removal from the developer unit of the liquid developer comprising an inverse residual image, said cleaning device accepting the residual image.

116. (previously presented) A device according to claim 115 wherein the cleaning device comprises a cleaning roller.

117. (previously presented) A device according to claim 116 wherein the liquid developer is stripped from the cleaning roller by a cleaning element.

118. (currently amended) A device according to claim 112 wherein the developer unit comprises a raster developer roller.

119. (previously presented) A device according to claim 112 wherein the raster unit comprises a raster roller.

120. (previously presented) A device according to claim 119 wherein a quantity of the liquid developer transported by the raster roller is established by said raster of the raster roller.

121. (previously presented) A device according to claim 119 wherein the developer roller, the raster roller, and a cleaning roller rotate with constant speed ratios.

122. (previously presented) A device according to claim 121 wherein the developer roller, raster roller, and cleaning roller rotate in a ratio of 1:1:1.

123. (previously presented) A device according to claim 118 wherein movement directions of surfaces of the developer roller and the image carrier element are in a same direction or in opposing directions.

124. (currently amended) A device according to claim 119 wherein the developer unit comprises a developer roller, and the developer roller and the raster roller rotate in a same direction or in opposing directions.

125. (previously presented) A device according to claim 118 wherein the developer roller and a cleaning roller rotate in a same direction or in opposing directions.

126. (previously presented) A device according to claim 118 wherein an electrical potential for targeted field effect on the charged toner particles is respectively applied on the developer roller and the image carrier element.

127. (previously presented) A device according to claim 118 wherein an electrical potential for targeted field effect on the charged toner particles is applied on the developer roller and on a cleaning roller.

128. (currently amended) A device according to claim 119 wherein the developer unit comprises a developer roller, and the developer roller comprises an elastic coating that is in contact with the image carrier element, with the raster roller and with a cleaning roller.

129. (currently amended) A device according to claim 119 wherein the developer unit comprises a developer roller, and in which the transport of the liquid developer by the raster roller is relative to an area and thus independent of a printing speed, such that a same quantity of liquid developer per areal unit of area is always directed to the developer roller given different printing speeds.

130. (previously presented) A device according to claim 129 wherein the raster roller exhibits a raster that enables the transport of a volume of liquid developer from 1 to 40 cm³/m².

131. (previously presented) A device according to claim 119 wherein a developer roller and the image carrier element or the developer roller and a cleaning roller or the developer roller and the raster roller are arranged relative to one another such that defined effective zones in which liquid developer migrates are provided.

132. (currently amended) A device according to claim 131 wherein the effective zones are formed via a defined deformation of the an elastic coating of the developer roller via elastic force delivery to the adjacent image carrier element, cleaning roller, and raster roller.

133. (previously presented) A device according to claim 131 wherein an incompressible layer of the liquid developer establishes a separation between developer roller and image carrier element, or developer roller and cleaning roller, or developer roller and the raster roller.

134. (currently amended) A device according to claim 119 wherein the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ comprises a chamber situated on a circumferential surface of the raster roller, a closing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ at an entrance of the chamber as viewed in a rotation direction of the raster roller and said dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ at an exit of the chamber as viewed in the rotation direction of the raster roller sealing the chamber by providing seals laterally situated on an edge of the raster roller.

135. (previously presented) A device according to claim 134 wherein a feed of the liquid developer into the chamber occurs via one or more inlet openings.

136. (previously presented) A device according to claim 134 wherein removal of the liquid developer from the chamber occurs via outlet openings.

137. (currently amended) A device according to claim 136 wherein the inlet opening or the outlet openings are exchangeable depending on an installation position relative to the raster roller.

138. (currently amended) A device according to claim 134 wherein an angular position of the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ relative to the raster roller is limited in that the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ is located below a surface of the liquid developer in the chamber.

139. (previously presented) A device according to claim 134 wherein a processing of a higher-viscosity liquid developer is made easier via generation of a slight over-pressure in the chamber.

140. (currently amended) A device according to claim 134 wherein an installation position of the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ on the raster roller is variable.

141. (previously presented) A device according to claim 134 wherein an installation position of a cleaning device on the developer roller is variable.

142. (currently amended) An electrophoretic printing device, comprising:

at least one developer station for development of potential images on the an image carrier element, said developer station comprising

a developer unit arranged adjacent to the image carrier element, the developer unit directing a liquid developer comprising toner particles to the image carrier element, the toner particles crossing over to the image carrier element corresponding to previously-generated potential images;

a raster unit arranged adjacent to the developer unit;

the raster unit transporting the liquid developer to the developer unit by use of a raster;

an electrical voltage applied between the raster unit and the developer unit in order to exert a targeted field effect on the toner particles in a direction towards the developer unit;

a doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ comprising a dosing ~~scraper~~ doctor blade arranged adjacent to the raster unit and having said liquid developer comprising said toner particles which are already charged, and from the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ the raster unit accepting the liquid developer via the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~; and

the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ being arranged and operable such that the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ is washed over by said liquid developer.

143. (presently presented) An electrophoretic printing device according to claim 142 wherein a developer roller, a raster roller, and a cleaning roller are

arranged in the developer station at a constant angle relative to one another such that an arrangement of developer stations around the image carrier element at various angular positions is possible without changing an association of the developer roller raster roller and the cleaning roller relative to one another.

144. (currently amended) An electrophoretic printing device according to claim 143 wherein

printing modules respectively made up of a developer station and the image carrier element are provided,

a developer roller, a raster roller, and a cleaning roller are arranged in the developer station at a constant angle relative to one another,

the printing modules are arranged at various angular positions along a deflected recording medium, wherein an arrangement of the doctor blade chamber scraper, the raster roller and the developer roller relative to one another is maintained in the respective developer station, and

a transfer roller arranged in the printing module between the image carrier element and the recording medium.

145. (currently amended) An electrophoretic printing device according to claim 143 wherein the angular position of the developer stations relative to the image carrier element or of printing modules relative to a recording medium can additionally be expanded by a variable angular position of a doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ on the raster roller.

146. (previously presented) An electrophoretic printing device according to claim 142 wherein a plurality of developer stations are arranged in a digital color printing device.

147. (previously presented) An electrophoretic printing device according to claim 142 wherein identically designed developer stations are used for different developer fluids.

148. (currently amended) A method for transport of liquid developer to an image carrier element in electrophoretic digital printing, comprising the steps of:

providing a developer unit adjacent to the image carrier element, and providing a raster unit having a raster adjacent to the developer unit;

providing a doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ comprising a dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ arranged adjacent to the raster unit, the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ having said liquid developer comprising toner particles which are already charged, and arranging the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~ so that the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~ is washed over by said liquid developer;

applying an electrical voltage between the raster unit and the developer unit in order to exert a targeted field effect on the toner particles of the liquid developer in a direction towards the developer unit;

with the doctor blade chamber ~~scraper~~, delivering to the raster unit the liquid developer via the dosing doctor blade ~~scraper~~; and

with the raster of the raster unit, transporting the liquid developer to the developer unit, and with the developer unit, directing the liquid developer with the toner particles to the image carrier element, the toner particles from the developer unit crossing over to the image carrier element corresponding to previously-generated potential images.

149. (currently amended) A device for transport of liquid developer to an image carrier element for electrophoretic digital printing, comprising:

a developer unit arranged adjacent to the image carrier element, the developer unit directing a liquid developer comprising toner particles to the image carrier element, the toner particles crossing over to the image carrier element corresponding to previously-generated potential images;

a raster unit arranged adjacent to the developer unit, the raster unit transporting the liquid developer to the developer unit by use of a raster of depressions;

an electrical voltage applied between the raster unit and the developer unit in order to exert a targeted field effect on the toner particles in a direction towards the developer unit; and

a chamber with said liquid developer adjacent said raster unit, a dosing doctor blade scraper of said chamber washed over by said liquid developer delivering said liquid developer to said raster unit.